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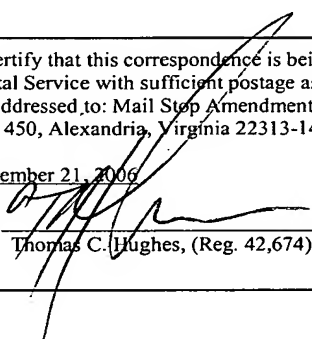
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : Michael P. WHITMAN  
Serial No. : 10/676,046  
Filed : September 30, 2003  
For : SELF CONTAINED STERILIZABLE ENDOSCOPE  
Examiner : John Luebecker  
Art Unit : 3739  
Confirmation No. : 7736

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date: December 21, 2006

Signature:   
Thomas C. Hughes, (Reg. 42,674)

**AMENDMENT**

This addresses the Office Action of June 23, 2006. Initially, kindly amend the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

12/27/2006 RHEBRAHT 00000056 110600 10676046

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